

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
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Immunization Program

TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS
Immunization Program Manager


Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

DATE: December 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Pentacel® Directive pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-7f(b)(4)(B).

This Pentacel® Directive is effective until March 31, 2013 unless otherwise notified.

In previous communications, the Connecticut Vaccine Program ("CVP") has advised providers of the nationwide Pentacel® shortage and methods on how to deal with the shortage. Each month the CVP receives a Pentacel® allocation from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention that only allows for each CVP enrolled provider to receive on average a maximum of five (5) doses per month. The Pentacel® shortage is expected to last until the end of March 2013.

For those patients who have begun the Pentacel® series, DPH follows the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation to use Pentacel® to complete the patient's vaccination series when possible. If providers cannot obtain enough Pentacel® through the CVP to complete the vaccination series for all such patients there are two options.

Option one is to complete the vaccination series using separate DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccine or Pediarix® (DTaP/IPV/Hep B) combination vaccine. CVP can supply enough of these vaccine products to meet the anticipated demand. Further guidance regarding this option can be obtained at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm#1>.

Alternatively, if you opt to continue a patient's vaccination sequence with Pentacel® and do not receive enough Pentacel® through the CVP to do so, DPH directs you under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-7f(b)(4)(B) to obtain the Pentacel® from another source, if possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Mick Bolduc the Vaccine Coordinator for the Connecticut Vaccine Program at (860) 509-7940.